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*The FFA Mission: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for **premier leadership, personal growth and career success** through agricultural education.*

NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION

2010 FFA Global Outreach: Africa Overview, FAQs and Ready References

Welcome to FFA Global Outreach: Africa (FFA GO: Africa), a special three-week program that offers six college-age students the opportunity of a lifetime: an all-expense-paid trip to Zambia, Africa, to help local farmers fight area hunger and poverty through sustainable agriculture and conservation. The program is managed by the staff of the National FFA Organization and made possible through a generous gift from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation. As a United Nations Ambassador against Hunger and a celebrated agriculturalist and humanitarian, Mr. Buffett shares FFA's objectives for this program to:

- Engage students at a personal level in the global issues and challenges of agriculture, food, hunger, poverty and human suffering
- Inspire students to serve and make a positive humanitarian difference in the world through agriculture
- Prepare students for careers and leadership
- Demonstrate the relevance and positive impact of education in agriculture.

The six college-enrolled FFA members selected to participate in FFA GO: Africa will begin their experience with a two-day orientation in Washington, D.C., before departing for Mfuwe, Zambia, for an opportunity to learn firsthand about the serious challenges facing the developing world. Once there, they will live and work for two weeks with the staff of Community Markets for Conservation (COMACO), a model for rural development that supports natural resource management. It operates through a non-profit company which partners with communities called the Conservation Farmer Wildlife Producer Trading Centre. More information can be found at <http://www.itswild.org>.

Following their stay in Zambia, the students will return to Washington, D.C. for a debriefing before heading home. There are expectations for generating reports and making post-trip presentations based on their experiences in the program. There is also an opportunity for students to arrange for college credit. The students will be supervised on-site by Dr. Bradley Leger, Coordinator - Organization, Development and Evaluation Unit at Louisiana Agricultural Center in Baton Rouge.

We're looking for students who have agricultural skills and experiences that can be used in the work of COMACO. Of particular interest are those with experience in Extension application and

evaluation; domestic trade of agriculture goods and services; poultry science; horticulture (especially grafting citrus fruits); olericulture (and the sustainability of production and supply); agricultural communications, conservation, data analysis; and apiculture. Other areas may also be of use, so please encourage all students to consider the opportunity.

This is an exceptional opportunity for students of agriculture to prepare themselves to be active players in the global agriculture arena. If you have questions about *FFA GO: Africa*, please contact Marty Tatman, FFA education specialist, mtatman@ffa.org, 317-802-4356. To learn more about Zambia, visit <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/za.html> or <http://www.zambia.co.zm>.

2010 FFA Global Outreach: Africa Frequently Asked Questions

What are the dates for the 2010 FFA GO: Africa program?

The 2010 program is scheduled for July 28 – Aug. 20, 2010. These dates may vary by a day on either end depending on international airfare availability.

How many people will be selected to be a part of the 2010 program?

This first year, six college students will participate in the FFA GO: Africa program.

Is this the first year for the program?

Yes, funding is committed to conduct the FFA GO: Africa program for five years.

Who sponsors the FFA GO: Africa program?

The FFA GO: Africa program is sponsored by the Howard G. Buffett Foundation as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

What are the requirements for participating in the FFA GO: Africa program?

Applicants must be actively enrolled college students pursuing a degree in an agriculture-related field. Applicants must also be active, dues-paying members in Collegiate FFA or the National FFA Alumni Association.

Not a current Collegiate FFA or FFA Alumni member? Not a problem. To determine if your college or university has a Collegiate FFA chapter, contact the Collegiate FFA team (collegiate@ffa.org) or your college or department of agriculture's main office. If your college has a Collegiate FFA chapter, simply join and pay the appropriate dues (current national dues are \$5). If your college or university doesn't have a Collegiate FFA chapter, you can look into starting a chapter by contacting the Collegiate FFA team. You can also become a member of the

National FFA Alumni Association by contacting the FFA alumni team, alumni@ffa.org or [click here](#). Current dues for membership with FFA Alumni are \$10.

How much will it cost me if I'm selected to be a part of the FFA GO: Africa program?

Virtually all costs of the program will be paid for as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. The only costs for the participants will be for securing passports and traveling to and from their local airports. The program will not cover the cost of souvenirs or extras beyond scheduled lodging, food and travel.

Who will be traveling with the group?

Dr. Bradley Leger, Coordinator - Organization, Development and Evaluation Unit at Louisiana Agricultural Center in Baton Rouge, will serve as group leader for the program and travel with the students. Once overseas, the group will be met by representatives from Community Markets for Conservation (COMACO). These representatives will serve as event coordinators while in Zambia. Mr. Dale Lewis is the main COMACO representative for the FFA GO: Africa team.

What will be the living conditions in Zambia?

Participants should anticipate living as the local residents. There will be safe structures supplied for sleeping and storing belongings. Anticipate the use of mosquito netting at night, no technology connections, limited electricity and consuming only filtered or bottled water. COMACO is located in Mfuwe, Zambia. Participants will not have hotel accommodations in Mfuwe; participants will stay in COMACO's guest quarters. There will be bathing facilities but no running water. Electricity is minimal. Participants will share rooms in the guest house and chalets (cabins).

Do I need inoculations?

Yes. As with most African nations, Zambia is a developing country with limited resources. There is a risk of malaria, internal parasites and other maladies. Inoculations will assist in preventing contraction of common problems. Medical attention is available for mild problems. There is a government clinic close by. Please visit the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) for specific information.

How will my time with the program be spent?

Your first few days as a part of the program will be spent in Washington, D.C., during an orientation learning about Zambian life and culture, what you will do while in Africa and getting to know the other participants. Once overseas, you will work with staff from COMACO (please see below for more details). Once back in the United States, you will spend a day in Washington, D.C., in a debriefing about your experience and the program.

What will I be doing while in Zambia?

Participants will work with COMACO staff, community leaders and farmers to gain a broad understanding of the challenges faced by small-scale farmers, the many environmental conflicts that arise from income and food insecure families, and the strategies adopted under the COMACO model. Additionally, participants will undertake special projects such as helping local citizens set up household-level businesses for fruit production, analyzing and working with poultry farmers on new projects to increase productivity and assessing bee-keeping operations and how they contribute to reductions in fires. National FFA and COMACO staff will work to match projects to a participant's interest and field of study.

Do I need to have my references provide a letter of recommendation?

No, reference letters are not required for a completed application. All that is required is the contact information of two references (advisor, instructor/professor, employer, etc). Be sure to include their e-mail addresses and daytime phone numbers. Do not list a family member as a reference.

Can I submit my application by e-mail instead of mailing it?

No, applications may only be submitted by mail. Original signatures, along with a Notary Public signature and stamp, are required for a completed application. You must have an official Notary Public signature on your application for it to be considered complete. Notary Publics can be found easily at many college campuses, county court houses and post offices. All applications must be mailed to the National FFA Organization, 6060 FFA Drive, P.O. Box 68960, Indianapolis, IN 46268. Please remember: applications must be postmarked by May 1, 2010.

What needs to be included for my application to be complete?

Your completed application will include:

- three pages of the application, including original signatures and cancellation form
- responses to essay questions
- resume
- contact information for two professional references (no family members)

What should I expect after submitting my application?

Receipt of your application will be verified via e-mail. You will be notified mid-May of the status of your application. Phone interviews will be conducted with the top candidates, and references will be contacted as well. Participants will be selected and notified prior to June 1.

Once notified of acceptance, a formal acceptance letter will be provided and must be submitted to Mr. Marty Tatman with Collegiate FFA programs. Participants will be supplied waiver and consent forms, a health questionnaire and a personal conduct form. All documents must be signed, notarized and returned to National FFA accompanied by a copy of a physician's health certificate and a photocopy of a legal passport.

Can I apply for FFA GO: Africa if I don't have my passport yet?

Yes, students can apply for the FFA GO: Africa program if they do not have a passport. However, it is highly encouraged that students apply for their passports as soon as possible to ensure they receive them in plenty of time. Currently, the U.S. State Department is processing routine applications in approximately three weeks from the time applications are received. However, processing times could change.

Whom do I contact if I have questions about the program and/or application?

Contact Marty Tatman with Collegiate Programs at the National FFA Organization, mtatman@ffa.org or 317-802-4356, with any questions. Find more information, visit www.ffa.org/collegiate.

2010 FFA Global Outreach: Africa Ready References

Prior to completing the application for the FFA GO: Africa program, please take the time to learn about the people and culture of Zambia, the efforts of COMACO in Zambia and the health risks that are associated with traveling to developing nations. Below you will find links to various websites for assistance as you begin your research.

[COMACO](http://www.itswild.org) <http://www.itswild.org>
[Wildlife Conservation Society](http://www.wcs.org/where-we-work/africa/zambia.aspx) in Zambia <http://www.wcs.org/where-we-work/africa/zambia.aspx>
[COMACO and General Mills video](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_FnOo3e0ki4) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_FnOo3e0ki4
[Ecoagriculture](http://www.ecoagriculture.org/case_study.php?id=24) http://www.ecoagriculture.org/case_study.php?id=24
[Zambia State House](http://www.statehouse.gov.zm) <http://www.statehouse.gov.zm>
[Zambia Wiki](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zambia) <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zambia>
[State Department Travel Info](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1062.html) http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1062.html
[State Department Notes on Zambia](http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2359.htm) <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2359.htm>
[Zambia Embassy in US](http://www.zambiaembassy.org) <http://www.zambiaembassy.org>
[CDC recommendations for travel to Zambia](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/zambia.aspx)
<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/zambia.aspx>
[Mfuwe Wiki](http://wikitravel.org/en/Mfuwe) <http://wikitravel.org/en/Mfuwe>
[Mfuwe Lodge](http://www.mfuwelodge.com) <http://www.mfuwelodge.com> (Participants will not stay at the Mfuwe Lodge. This link will provide a sense of the tourism created by their rich natural resources.)
[CIA World Fact Book](https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/za.html#top) <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/za.html#top>
[UN Press Release](http://www.un.org/News/briefings/docs/2008/080924_WFP.doc.htm) http://www.un.org/News/briefings/docs/2008/080924_WFP.doc.htm